

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
11201 Renner Blvd., Lenexa, Kansas 66219

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

EPA Region 7 and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Select Alignment for West Lake Landfill Isolation Barrier

Contact Information: Chris Whitley, 913-551-7394, whitley.christopher@epa.gov

Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Lenexa, Kan., July 21, 2014) – EPA Region 7, following consultations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), announced new details of its decision to direct the responsible parties to construct an isolation barrier at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. The barrier was originally ordered by the Missouri Attorney General to separate the West Lake Landfill from a subsurface smoldering event located approximately 1,000 feet away at the South Quarry Cell of the Bridgeton Landfill.

The EPA is negotiating an administrative order with the responsible parties to design and build an isolation barrier between the North Quarry Cell of Bridgeton Landfill and Operable Unit 1 of the West Lake Landfill. Design work is expected to begin within the next few months, with actual construction projected to begin in late 2015 or early 2016. The decision comes after months of EPA and USACE discussions on the engineering requirements for two potential barrier alignments.

After a comparative analysis, which looked at the advantages and disadvantages from alignment choices, the EPA determined the selected alignment would have the least immediate impacts such as the duration of odor, which attracts pests and increases the chance of bird strikes on aircraft. Bird strikes has been a significant concern for the Airport Authority in St. Louis. The alignment location selected will be significantly faster to implement.

EPA and USACE will monitor the construction to ensure the contractor follows precise and cautious protocols to safeguard the containment of any radiologically impacted material (RIM) that will be excavated along this alignment. As part of this removal action the isolated RIM that will remain on the North Quarry Cell side of the barrier will be addressed.

The other alignment option reviewed by the EPA and USACE experts was rejected due to significant complexities and tangible impacts:

- The rejected option would take much longer to complete (as much as twice as long).
- The waste in the rejected location was significantly deeper than the selected option, which made the rejected option more difficult to construct.
- The rejected option would require removal of significantly more waste than the selected option.
- The rejected option would present a higher risk of bird strikes on aircraft because of greater exposed volumes of newer waste. More exposed waste would also attract other pests, such as rats and mosquitos.
- The rejected option could damage existing Bridgeton Landfill North Quarry infrastructure, including gas wells and leachate extraction systems, which could result in worsened odors.

“The selected alignment will minimize odors, lessen the risk of bird strikes, and lessen the time it

takes to complete the project,” said Karl Brooks, EPA Region 7 Administrator. “The EPA and Corps experts agree the selected alignment offers the best overall solution that is protective of public health, as well as the safety of the flying public.”

The EPA and USACE are working together under an interagency agreement signed on April 9, 2014. Under that agreement, USACE provides technical assistance services, design review services, pre-construction and construction observation, and community relations support.

A copy of EPA’s order directing Republic Services to begin construction activities for the isolation barrier is available online at: [\(INSERT LINK HERE\)](#)

A copy of the interagency agreement between EPA and USACE is available online at:
http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/pdf/west-lake-fy14-ia-sow.pdf

###

Learn more about EPA’s work at West Lake Landfill:
http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm

Learn more about EPA Region 7: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region7.html>

Connect with EPA Region 7 on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/eparegion7>